GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2354
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2001
FUNDS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE IN SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY
T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is carrying out a programme titled FIST for special research work;

(b) the total amount of grant released under the programme to various State Governments including the works for which the grant was released;

(c) whether any reports have been received by the Union Government on conducting research regarding nitrate and fluoride contents in the ground water in various parts of Tamilnadu;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) Yes, Sir, the Government through the Department of Science and Technology has initiated a programme titled `Funds for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure in Universities and Higher Educational Institutions (FIST)` in the year 2000-2001.

(b) A sum of Rs. 19 crores has been released this year for the procurement of equipment and for creation of infrastructure facilities to 61 Departments in Universities and academic institutions covering 17 States.This support is mainly for improvement of Post-Graduate Teaching and Research by strengthening the infrastructure facilities, such as, procurement of State-of-the-art equipment, computational and networking facilities.

(c), (d) & (e) Yes, Sir, Government is aware of sporadic reports on the levels of nitrate and fluoride in the ground water in parts of Tamilnadu and neighbouring states. These data are being monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Board for appropriate action.